

ER 60-4202/s

16 JUN 1960

Mr. M. H. Sullivan, Jr.
Department of Fire
City of Atlanta
46 Courtland Street, SE
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

Thank you for your letter of 30 May calling attention to the fact that gamblers in your area are using a special type of paper.

Paper of this type has historically been of interest to intelligence organizations of many countries. However, in view of the fact that the general process for production is well known, we cannot conclude that there has been a "leak" in supply channels. To make this paper in small quantities requires a minimum of knowledge and equipment.

We appreciate your bringing this matter to our notice.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

C. P. Cabell
General, USAF
Acting Director

TSD/ [] 6/8/60)
Rewritten: O/DCI/W. Elder:kp(6/16/60)
Distribution:
Orig - Addressee
1 - A/DCI
1 - TSD/[]
1 - ER (w/basic)

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CITY OF ATLANTA

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE
46 COURTLAND ST., S. E.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

May 30, 1960

L. WAITS GUTHRIE, CHIEF

Mr. Alan Dulles, Director
U. S. Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

It has recently come to the attention of this department that certain gambling organizations here are using a highly flammable, possibly explosive, onion skin paper. Chemical analysis shows this "paper" to be practically pure Nitro-Cellulose.

Such a product being an extreme fire hazard, it naturally follows that our Bureau would make a thorough investigation to determine, (1) the source of the material; (2) storage places, distribution points, etc., and (3) names of parties responsible for its importation into our City.

At this point in our investigation, it is believed that this product may have been manufactured for use by intelligence agents for the quick disposal of written materials in the event of the agent's capture.

The specimen of this paper, which we now have in our possession, is cream colored heavy onion skin. Its watermark reads "Gilbert Lifetime Onion Skin--100% cotton fibre U.S.A." When burned on a white surface, it leaves only a trace of yellow ash. We have further information that some of this paper has been watermarked "International Manifold". International Paper Company has of course denied the manufacture of such an item.

"HELP SAVE LIFE AND PROPERTY BY PREVENTING FIRES"

Mr. Alan Dulles

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May 30, 1960

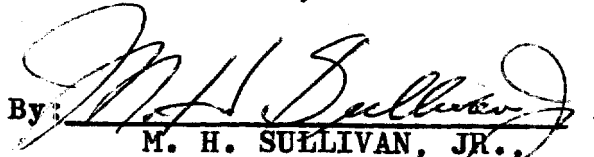
The possession of this paper by persons of questionable character may indicate a "leak" in supply channels, and we feel that it would be to our mutual benefit to take the necessary steps to prevent such persons being supplied with these materials. We, therefore, solicit your comments and suggestions in this matter. You may be assured that any information which you are kind enough to supply will be kept in strict confidence.

If we may be of any service whatever to you, please feel free to call upon us.

Yours truly,

J. F. SEAGRAVES, FIRE MARSHAL

By:


M. H. SULLIVAN, JR.,
Fire Investigator

MHS:mc

Mr. M. H. Sullivan, Jr.
Department of Fire
City of Atlanta
46 Courtland St., SE
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

I refer to your recent letter dated May 30, 1960, in which you advised us that certain gambling organizations in your area were using a highly flammable onion skin paper bearing the watermark "Gilbert Lifetime Onion Skin - 100% cotton fibre U. S. A." which chemical analysis showed to be practically pure nitrocellulose.

The general process for the production of this type of paper is well known to the chemical industry and in fact could be applied to many existing types of paper so as to produce quick-burning paper having the watermark of some innocent paper manufacturer. The resulting paper to all intents and purposes is a form of gun cotton. This process requires a minimum of knowledge and equipment so long as large quantities of paper are not needed.

Possession by gambling organizations of the type of paper to which you refer does not indicate a leak in supply channels of this Agency even though paper of this general type has historically been of interest to intelligence organizations of many countries.

I would like to thank you for bringing this matter to our attention and will be glad to supply additional information should you so desire.

Sincerely,

TSD/[] (8 June 1960)

C. P. Cabell
General, USAF
Acting Director

Distribution:

Addressee - Orig.

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TSD/[] - chrono

ER - 1 - w/linearing

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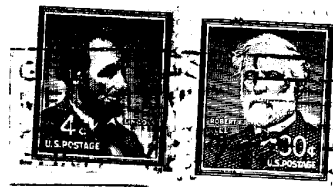
TSD/[] - chrono

ER - 1 w/line marking

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OFFICE
CHIEF FIRE DEPARTMENT
46 COURTLAND ST., S. E.
ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA



Mr. Alan Dulles, Director
U. S. Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Strictly Confidential